

**Prepared Testimony of
New York State Assemblyman Marc S. Alessi
to the
Congressional Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation
May 7, 2007**

My name is Marc Alessi. I proudly represent the 1st Assembly District in the New York State Legislature, which includes the towns of Shelter Island, Southold and Riverhead; as well as part of Brookhaven - including the North Shore, from Mt. Sinai to Shoreham. The residents of my district would be the unwelcoming neighbors to the Broadwater LNG terminal.

As you probably know, energy costs on Long Island are suffocating the hard working men and women living here. As a result, Long Islanders have been left with a sense of helplessness as they've seen their utility bills grow astronomically over the past five years.

Desperate as we are for relief, you would think a proposal that could save us upwards of \$300 a year on energy costs would be welcomed with open arms on Long Island. Yet, as Broadwater has discovered, it takes much more than unfounded savings claims to win over the Long Island public. If Broadwater assumed Long Islanders would be pushovers, they should have studied their history more carefully.

Just ask Wading River residents - who would have the indignation of living closest in proximity to the terminal - what happens when something of this magnitude is built despite overwhelming public opposition. They will direct you about two miles down the road to the never-opened Shoreham Nuclear Power plant, a shameful reminder of why heeding to public opinion is paramount in matters like this.

Numerous studies and reports have concluded that LNG terminal would not be a high-threat security risk. To me, however, the threat level is insignificant. The bottom line is: 9 miles off the North Shore of Long Island, there currently is no 216,000 square foot potential terrorist target. Should one be built, I don't think North Shore residents could ever live with full peace of mind, no matter how unlikely the chances it would be used in a terrorist strike.

One of my biggest worries is the cost of securing the terminal. Local municipalities – ones that I represent – would be asked to involuntarily put forth their own public safety resources to assist the Coast Guard in providing security. They're presently asking, and rightfully so, why should they be forced to foot the bill to secure private property? Worse, residents would see their tax dollars used to protect something that will provide the most benefit to ratepayers living 75 miles away in New York City.

Moving forward with this proposal opens the door for a handful of valid legal claims by multiple Long Island towns, as well as Suffolk County. In some cases, preliminary action has already been taken. Among their convincing arguments: FERC lacks the authority to permit a floating barge such as the LNG terminal; and also, Broadwater is blocked by numerous restrictions that prevent it from taking publicly-owned property. Broadwater should be fore-warned: Long Island will exhaust every legal argument to prevent this unwanted facility from being moored into our treasured Long Island Sound.

As I have said before, a 400 yard long monstrosity in the middle of Long Island sound would serve as a constant reminder for our children and grandchildren that when we should have been charting new energy policy, we instead elected to stick with a failed status quo. Our energy challenges can no longer be viewed in simple terms of supply and demand as the proponents of Broadwater would like us to.

It takes a new, alternative approach, one that I believe we are capable of envisioning and putting into policy. This commitment towards a better energy future is embraced by the Long Island public; and it is a sincere priority of our elected officials, with no finer example than the congressman before me, through whose efforts, today's hearing was made possible. We're making progress toward realizing that vision, slow progress at times, but we're moving in the right direction.

And yet, energy executives who could care less about Long Island's energy woes are trying to dictate what's best for us, a solution that just happens to serve well the interests of their corporate board room - 1,700 miles away in Houston, Texas.

This is our home. The precious waterway to our North is something that the people of Long Island cherish and do not wish to see industrialized. I will never support Broadwater. And along with my fellow elected officials, I will continue to fight to ensure Long Island Sound remains as we, the people of Long Island, want it.